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# E D I T O R I A L.

Editorials are seldom of great significance, and frequently consist of little more than a running comment on some transient fad or trend in a particular field; and that, coupled with the usual tendency of most readers to peruse an editorial after digesting the main articles and stop-press news, goes to show that most editorials are rather shallow affairs altogether. This is not to say that some marvellous editorials have not been written by gifted thinkers in the past. They have, but they are very rare birds with which the majority of editors, including the present one, find it hard to keep pace with magazine after magazine.

So by contrived verbiage your editor has managed already to fill up roughly a quarter of this page with smart sounding phraseology amounting to practically nothing at all. Tremendous stuff if you are a hack writer, but no good at all if one is trying to produce a serious publication such as "Awareness" purports to be.

But the real point of the foregoing gobbledygook is to show that far too many articles, let alone editorials, ramble on in the above fashion here deliberately concocted. Ufo periodicals are full of them. They are also full of unpardonable and quite unnecessary errors. Sometimes these masquerade under glossy covers, such as the lamentable "Official UFO" magazine (not to be confused with the very similar-looking "UFO Report" magazine), which tries to plumb new levels of mediocrity with every issue. Unfortunately, because these magazines are prominent on many news-stands, and because they "look good", uninformed readers buy them and accept their contents as factually true or, if they are of the more perceptive sort, identify the ingredients as just so much trash — even if they happen to be unaware of extent of the errors perpetrated. Regrettably, far too many young readers are influenced by this highly questionable and often demonstrably inaccurate material, and soon come to believe that ufos are provably extraterrestrial in origin and that Von Daniken's theories are really confirmed fact. Still worse is the natural reaction of the more discerning readers who also dismiss as worthless similar format magazines, like "UFO Report", that are in fact of far higher reliability. So the baby gets thrown out with the bath water, and the young and the impressionable and the undiscerning get led up the garden path.

If any good can come out of all this it must be that far too many ufo journals and far too many writers and contributors to those journals adopt an unbecoming dogmatism, which certainly does ufology far more harm than good. It is all very well having firm beliefs and to adhere staunchly to a theory that strikes one's fancy or which you feel is susceptible of reasonable proof, but it is a totally different thing to ram it down the throats of others as fact. At present ufology is beset by a multitude of theories and ifs and buts, each supported by a small fraction of the recorded evidence although in no single instance encompassing all the recorded evidence satisfactorily. Until universally acceptable proof emerges in favour of one of these theories, then all must remain as valid possibilities. One does not have to subscribe to them, but if, as responsible ufologists, we are to do our job properly for the benefit of posterity then we dare not dogmatise at this point in time.

The Editor.

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The editor regrets that for various reasons it is not always possible to acknowledge every item of correspondence received by Contact (UK) personnel, a fact in no way diminishing our gratitude to all who bother to write to us.

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"UFOS OVER EUROPE IN 1720 - 1721"

by

V.I.Sanarov\*

Through the kindness of the Glasgow University Library I recently obtained a xerox copy of a rare eighteenth century booklet containing material apparently related to ufology. So far as I know this has not been noticed before in the ufological literature, and certainly no complete account of the events described in the booklet has appeared. The booklet bears the ponderous title:-

An Account of terrible Apparitions and Prodigies,  
Which hath been seen both upon Earth and Sea,  
in the End of Last, and Beginning of this present  
Year, 1721. - Glasgow: Printed by Thomas Crawford,  
M.DCC.XXI. - 7 p.; 14.5 cm.

Pages 3 to 5 of this booklet contain an account of the eruption of underwater volcanoes near the Island of Tercera, Azores, in November 1720, which "has formed an Island of nine Miles long and as many broad, of a Considerable height with five Vulcanoos, or burning M(o)untains upon it".

Then follow accounts of great lights over certain towns in England, Switzerland, Germany, and France, which may be well classed among UFO sightings. Here is the relevant text:-

"On the 25. November last early in the Morning, great lights appeared over the City of Bristol in England, and streams whereof came down to the Houses, so that it seemed, as if the City had been set on Fire, and as if the flames had ascended up from it, which made the Watch cry out Fire. Much about the same time there appeared at Ley upon Mendip in Somerset Shire such streaming Lights of Fire and Smoke towards the North, as was very astonishing to those who saw it. It was observed particularly by the Coliers of Mendiphills, four or five Mills (= Miles) from the for(e)said Town.

"On the 14th of January last, between the Hours of 11 and 12 at Night, a great Globe of Fire was seen passing over the City of Bern in Switzerland, which fell to the ground about six Miles distant from the City. Next Night about the same Time the like was seen again. And in the night betwixt the 16 and 17 of the said Month, was perceived a great Pillar of Fire standing over the Mountains near that City, to the West-ward of its Fortifications, which advancing by little and little toward the City, burst at length, without making any great Noise, and then three Globes of Fire were seen to issue out of it, which took each of them a different way, and at length disappeared. The like terrible apparition was seen the 6th Feb. at Frankfort in Germany, which made its Progression North-wards toward the Mountains, and then vanished.

"On the 19th of February, at the City of Rennes in the north of France, between 8 and 9 in the Evening, the Moon being then 4 or 5 days after Change,

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appeared on a sudden much Larger than usual, moved off West-ward, leaving behind it a luciferous and transparent Cloud, which in length reached from East to West, and was Brorder (sic) than a common Rain-bow; thro' the same were distinctly seen, several stars; behind it were soon after perceived diverse Stripes much Brighter, and by their Position, some-what resembling a row of Organ pipes, which taking fire on a sudden, seemed to strick (sic) each other in a violent Manner, sending forth over the first Cloud, and in the Adjacent Air, Flames, the Colour and Vibrations of which were very terrible. About Nine the Great Fire disappeared, and from time Time till Eleven, we only saw rays of Light, which intermizing or running into each other, represented a kind of Flight, after which they evanished, and were succeeded immediately by others. The same Phenomenon or Apparition, having suddenly redoubled its Agitation, without assuming either a new form or colour, there gushed out of it, with surprising Impetuosity, white Flames, which entirely filled the Air; and were the more affecting and terrible to the Inhabitants of the said City, in that there were a lively Picture of the terrible Conflagration which happened there in the Month of December preceding, by which 800 Houses were Burnt down to the Ground. About Twelve, the Motions of these white Flames abated, and the great white Cloud moving off East-ward, the Fire went out entirely, and the great Light was succeeded by thick Darkness".

These accounts are typical of some modern UFO sightings. Great lights over Bristol in 1720 can be paralleled with the sighting over a ufo pver Petrozavodsk (Karelian ASSR, U.S.S.R.) in September 1977, when a huge light in the form of a jelly-fish sent down upon the town streams of light that caused damage to window panes and flagstones (melted holes), at 4.00 a.m. The pillar of fire sending out smaller globes of fire over Bern parallels those modern sightings of large cylindrical or cigar-shaped objects disgorging globular lights or smaller luminous objects, e.g., Gaillac and Oloron in 1954. As to the Rennes (France) event, this may very well have been an auroral display, which, however, is unusual for this latitude. It also contains elements that do not fit too well with normal auroral displays.

The anonymous author also tells us that he sets forth "a bare Narrative of these strange Appearances, according to the order of Time and the Advices we have had thereof in the publick Gazetts and News Letters of the Several Countries where these Prodigies did appear". From this one has hopes of perhaps locating surviving contemporary accounts of these same events in local newspapers of those dates. One might also surmise, not without reason, that newspapers published at the time in adjacent countries might also contain further accounts of these or generally contemporary incidents. This is a promising area for those who would undertake the search.

In conclusion I should like to record my best thanks to the senior librarian of Glasgow University Library for bringing the foregoing booklet to my attention, and supplying a photocopied version of it.

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"THE REAL ISSUES IN THE UFO FIELD"

by

Allen H.Greenfield.

It is important to realise that there are no reasons of substance to support the theory that ufos are 'spaceships' from a planet other than our own. This may seem



a startling statement to make, so some words of explanation will be necessary. I give these below, merely adding that, of course, the argument advanced is essentially a personal viewpoint. Nevertheless, I believe that dispassionate appraisal of the available evidence can only concur with the conclusions presented below.

Ufos are seen or near the Earth, and are not infrequently associated with allegedly "otherworldly" creatures. Such creatures, however, are very much like, if not identical with, classified manifestations connected with worldwide fairy lore, which has for long been evaluated in terms quite other than those of "extraterrestrial visitations". It is quite true that much orthodox scientific thinking in recent decades has tended towards a belief in the reality of life on other planets, but it is also true that the possibility of the existence of such life in no way indicates that ufos are demonstrably associated with such hypothetical extraterrestrial beings. In point of fact, there is also a sound (indeed perfectly orthodox scientific) basis for theorising that other dimensional structures (alternate reality frames) exist. One could as well link ufos to these as to the theory of extraterrestrial intelligences.

Observed as a whole, the ufo phenomenon is actually very suggestive of the type of archetypal and paranormal events and concepts to be found within the framework of Jungian psychology, which is well known in parapsychological research. The manifestations of the ufo phenomenon appear to be far more malleable than much of the available ufo literature suggests. It is very important to realise this.

There appears to be a subjective factor at or very near the heart of the ufo mystery. This subjective factor can lead one into a radical theoretical framework, known as the subjective theory, which views the ufo problem from a different perspective.

A certain element in "official" ufological circles exhibits a degree of sophistication about the ufo problem that goes well beyond that held by or normally voiced by the bodies and groups they outwardly represent. Dr J. Allen Hynek and Dr Jacques Vallee, both professional scientists, fall into this category.

Nevertheless, even these gentlemen are still most limited by their framework of references which, it would seem, transcends mere intellectual opinion and extends to their entire socio-cultural perspective and life-styles. Thus, their very questions are, as it were, fitted with blinders. To such individuals the search for truth is limited both by their conservative expectations and, perhaps, by a fear at being just too much at odds with their cultural and professional peers. These lines are not meant as criticisms of Drs Hynek and Vallee or of those like them, but are intended to highlight over simplified attitudes and often ignored aspects attending the research of individuals even of such high calibre. The nature of the ufo mystery necessitates bold, even radical, patterns of thought, and one questions whether even the published attitudes of Drs Hynek and Vallee, et al, have been radical enough.

Because there are subjective and psychological factors involved, it is my contention that an understanding of the ufo problem itself can be arrived at by an understanding of the people vitally involved with that problem. In circular, but rather direct, fashion the nature of ufologists becomes an important clue to the nature of ufos.

Several examples suggestive of the correctness of this premise appeared recently in the pages of "Ufology Notebook", thanks to Curt Sutherly and Gene Steinberg — two primary leaders of Middle Ufology. For example: red, white, and blue ufos appear in January 1976 — the U.S. Bicentennial Year; immediately following upon an article in a local newspaper concerning the classic airship cases of the 1890's, the Lebanon Valley of Pennsylvania became the scene of a ufo wave which included airship reports, atypical of the recent past but highly suggestive of the cases of 1896-1897; a hoaxed ufo report made to local police of the same object in the same locale, which in fact may have given rise to one of the classical ufo waves.

These and other bits of data are suggestive of a highly interesting subjective aspect involved with the ufo phenomenon. This aspect has to date been given very little attention in the public presentation of ufology by the major ufo organisations. This points up the dangers inherent in a relatively small and rather closed circle of people with a "respectability fetish" monopolising public attention on ufos. They have reached this position through their admitted talents as organisers and through being well-connected, as well as because for many years they went largely unopposed. It is, however, vital to note that organising talent and university connections are no measure of actual creativity or intelligence.

(Editorial note: the foregoing article has been reproduced from the version printed in "Skywatch", the journal of MAPIT (Stockport, Cheshire), through the kindness of its editor, David Rees; the issue concerned was MAPIT Skywatch, no:29 (July-August), 1978, pp.8-9).

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#### "NOTES ON THE FOREGOING PAPER: A PERSONAL EVALUATION"

by

J.B.Delair.

It is certainly not incumbent upon your editor to append commentaries on papers published in this journal, but the character of the foregoing article by esteemed American researcher Allen H.Greenfield is such that on this occasion one appears to be appropriate.

Firstly, Mr Greenfield's article raises important issues, and to the bottom of p.5 supra argues cogently for the development of a radical rethink on ufology in general. The examples given by Messrs Sutherly and Steinberg, however, are not as helpful as would seem at first acquaintance, and it is at this point in Mr Greenfield's paper that critical evaluation seems especially applicable.

Few deny that local or even national ufo "flaps" (not waves, as these are properly global events) can be and may partially have been generated by an initial hoax. Similarly, even one good or startling lone ufo sighting has been known to set off appreciable public reaction in the same general region, whereby all of a sudden numerous people start seeing and reporting ufo manifestations. No real objection to this aspect can be forthcoming as the reality of this "progression" has been amply demonstrated in the past by several reputable researchers.

But red, white, and blue coloured ufos have been seen on countless occasions, long before and well after the beginning of the U.S. Bicentennial Year, while



airship-like objects (presumably a singular ufo type) have been reported long before and on many occasions after the celebrated airship "outbreak" of 1896-1897. The remarkable airship or spindle-shaped body sighted for almost a whole week in September 1762 from places as far apart as Basle in Switzerland and Sole in France (1), was undoubtedly a significant early ufo event; yet it did not apparently generate a wave of eighteenth century airship observations. Furthermore, it is wrong to imply, however unwittingly, that hoaxes necessarily generate subsequent spates of ufo sightings in the same area. This effect may well occur in particular localities for specific periods, but they are rare and there is scant evidence suggestive that this could be a general rule.

An important factor to note is that huge numbers of ufo sightings do occur but are never reported by eyewitnesses for fear of ridicule or a desire of "not wanting to become involved". Many instances are known now of witnesses deliberately withholding accounts of their experiences for fear of harrassment or malicious reaction. The maxim "anything for a quiet life" evidently applies in these cases. Conversely, many percipients who have boldly and publically announced details of their ufo experiences, have afterwards wished they had remained silent due to the excessive interest and often disgraceful treatment handed out to them by the media and the more crack-pot elements within the ufological fraternity. The Lonnie Zamorra and Dale Spaur incidents are examples of this. Also of interest here is the fact that while "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" failed to generate the massive ufo "waves" predicted by certain cynics, they did heighten the public's awareness of the subject of ufos and were unquestionably instrumental in persuading numerous eyewitnesses, who, although experiencing ufo events years before, had remained silent until the showing of these films, to at last release details of the incidents in question. These, as well as adding significantly to the sum total of known ufo testimony, have shown the size of the hitherto unknown (but long suspected) corpus of ufo observations never previously reported.

The above indicates that to interpret local ufo "flaps" as a subjective issue is almost certainly unscientific or at best highly arguable. The isolation of red, white and blue coloured ufos in early 1977 as evidence of a reflection of the U.S. Bicentennial Year is manifest nonsense. Similar objects had been sighted on many occasions previously, and at least as far back as 1948. Similarly the sighting of airship-like objects following a newspaper account of the 1896-7 airship sightings is scant evidence for concluding that a local subjective reaction had occurred. Interestingly, the now celebrated 1973 ufo "wave" included four known hoaxes, one of them of a "spaceman" parading along a country road near Xenia (2). But deduct these from the 3,000-odd ufo cases known for the Autumn of 1973 alone and note that these are of global distribution (3), and one readily perceives that local newspaper accounts can seldom generate a local "flap". Moreover, it is known that certain localities appear to host sudden and often quite intense ufo activity, and that other localities are the scenes of regular ufo visits -- although why? is an unanswered question at present.

That such temporarily intense ufo activity occurs, often on a widespread scale, also means that on those occasions at least it proceeds more rapidly than the medias' ability to disseminate details of a hoax. In other words, although a proven hoax may be detected at say noon, and details of it published in the evening edition of some local newspaper by say 5.00 pm., upwards of thirty more ufo



events may have occurred between those two times, and not improbably over a sufficiently widespread area to preclude the possibility of the witnesses being in any sort of collusion. The published hoax may well generate a series of subsequent "ufo" reports that largely turn out on investigation to be misidentified aeroplanes, helicopters, weather balloons, or meteors, yet even these will be seen to be honest reports of actually mundane objects. Certainly they will not be hoaxes; at least only an extremely minute percentage of them will be. Eyewitness subjectivity will indeed creep into matters here, as mundane objects will be misinterpreted by views as ufos, whereas those same viewers lacking the conditioning generated by the hoax might on other occasions correctly identify those same types of objects for what they really are. This process of reporting what has been seen in terms of the nearest familiar object assumes a new significance if the actual reports are scattered geographically over a wide area but still describe essentially the same kind of object or objects. If the reports are very scattered, one coming from say Mexico, another from Canada, and a third from Japan, it follows that, because no collusion can take place between such widely sundered witnesses, the objects they report (if truly unidentifiable) are effecting Earth visits within the same small time frame. When sufficiently large numbers of widely distributed reports of this kind occur in a short space of time then a true flap or wave occurs and can, through chronological listing of the different reports, be readily discerned. Such circumstances occurred in 1973; previous years saw a similar process. Thus, even if one or a few hoaxes are perpetrated, these tend to exercise slight influence upon the contents of the flap or wave as a whole.

We can see, therefore, that the arguments put forward by Mr Greenfield scarcely withstand serious scrutiny in the latter half of his interesting article, even though initially the same article touches upon several crucially important aspects of the ufo enigma. In particular, few will withhold agreement that a new radical approach to ufos will be necessary before a proper understanding becomes possible of how the phenomenon operates or what it signifies in real terms. The real issues are therefore still far from being resolved, although future prospects are indeed exciting.

#### R e f e r e n c e s

- 1: Histoires et Memoires de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, Paris, 1766; also the Annual Register, 1766, pp.120-121.
- 2: New Scientist, 1.11.1973, p.357.
- 3: Synopsis of the Great World-Wide UFO Wave of 1973, The UFO Register, vol.5, 1974, pp.8-94.

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#### "SIX DAYS OF SCIENCE"

by  
David Medina\*

Despite the vast amount of evidence to the contrary, scientists insist that proof positive for extraterrestrial life does not exist. Church-going scientists, however, cannot prove the existence of God. So it depends upon what is meant by evidence.

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Were some scientists to read the Old Testament narrative in a material way, they would experience difficulty in explaining some of the texts as other than evidence of visitations by alien beings. Some writers have recognized this and have gone so far as to assert that the visitations were by beings from outer space. It is this writer's contention that other types of explanation only produce weak and unscientific explanations.

In the Hebrew manuscripts from which the Bible has been translated, the word "elohim" means gods, not God. These texts frequently allude to the arrival of the elohim on mountain tops amid smoke and fire and thunderings. These "gods" are said to have dwelt in or on a mountain and are reported to have sometimes moved to other mountains.

One of the best known incidents in this category concerns Moses's acquisition of two tablets of stone onto which the commandments (or Covenant) had been written by the fingers of the gods. Moses was also shown plans of the container (or Ark) that was to be built to receive the tablets, and also of the huge tent (or Tabernacle) which was to be erected to house the Ark of the Covenant. Thus began the history of this lethal piece of equipment, which remained in use for over 450 years (surely a most marvellously durable item), and will one day be found.

The Ark, which the Israelites built in accordance with the precise instructions received by Moses, was a wooden gold-covered box. The lid of the Ark was called a "mercy seat". From this seat or throne, in the most "holy" space of the Tabernacle, the Lord would speak to the people. At first, neither Moses nor his brother, the high-priest Aaron, seem to have been in complete control of the lethal power of the Ark. Tragedy struck the family shortly after the Tabernacle and its associated equipment had been set-up, even though, it would seem, protective clothing was worn. The biblical texts are clear on these points.

Several animal carcasses were placed upon the sacrificial altar outside the door of the Tabernacle, "And there came a fire out from the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering...". Two of the sons of Aaron were so impressed at this that, contrary to instructions given by Moses, they took up brass censers, "And there went a fire out from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord". Several years later, Moses ordered 250 mutinous priests to bring their brass censers and assemble in front of the Tabernacle, "And there came a fire out from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense". The people, perhaps not without cause, accused Moses of murder, whereupon another 14,700 immediately fell dead.

Many other startling events are associated with this simply constructed wooden gold-covered box. Certainly it was no ordinary receptacle, for it appears that it could produce not only electricity but also lethal radiation of some type. The two tablets of stone, the divine gift to Moses, were surely not formed of ordinary rock, but of some substance capable of producing the terrible effects described in the scriptural texts, either direct or in conjunction with some other agency.

For forty years after leaving captivity in Egypt, the Israelites wandered from desert to desert, where sparse vegetation was inadequate to support the Hebrew host and their accompanying herds of animals. A mysterious substance called in the scriptures "manna" — which is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Heaven — was provided as sustenance for these multitudes. No satisfactory explanation



of this curious substance was available until two engineers, George Sassoon and Rodney Dale found the description of a food-producing machine in the ancient Aramaic text of the Kabbala. In their subsequent book, "The Manna-Machine", the engineers describe a device capable of culturing algae and processing it into edible form. This machine is recorded as having been a gift from the gods. It needs little imagination to appreciate how useful, perhaps essential, such a machine would be to space travellers undertaking long journeys to and from distant worlds.

In the Kabbala, the manna-machine is referred to as "The Ancient of Days", but in the Bible as the "Host" and sometimes as "the Lord". The first mention of manna in the Bible (Exodus 16.13-15) states: "...and in the morning dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat". Assuming that the chronology of Exodus is correct, the Ark of the Covenant was built two years later.

According to the Book of Joshua (5.12-15) the supply of manna abruptly ceased when, after forty years of wandering, the Israelites reached Jericho, the promised land. Joshua, who was now the Hebrew leader, noticed a strange man: "and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay: but as the captain of the host of the Lord am I now come". In other parts of the Bible, "host" seems to refer to the manna-machine. Perhaps this passage means that the gods had decided to depart and needed the machine.

The Ark of the Covenant containing the tablets given to Moses, remained among the Hebrews for another 400 years. It was harmless when in the hands of those who knew how to control it, but was otherwise lethal. King Solomon placed it in the "most holy" space of the temple; but when the temple was plundered later in history, the prophet Jeremiah hid it in a cave, claiming that it would one day be found and restored to its former glory.

These and other details relating to the Ark have recently (1977) been published by the writer as a small paperback entitled "God's Weapon: the deadly Ark of the Covenant" (privately printed), and is available from him at £1.00p (inclusive of postage).

On a cautionary note, anyone who attempts to locate and retrieve the Ark would be well advised to take adequate protective measures, for it may well still be radio active or capable of generating some other form of lethal radiation. Quite literally the finder could become a millionaire, for a prize of £1,000,000 has recently been offered by "Cutty Sark (UK Scotch Whisky) Ltd" for evidence or a device that can be proved to have arrived on Earth from beyond our Solar System, either in the guise of a spacecraft or an artifact. The Ark of the Covenant was built by the Israelites, but the two inscribed tablets of stone, bearing the Ten Commandments, were given to Moses by the gods (God or the Lord in the biblical texts). These tablets would fall into the artifact category. One might also hazard a guess that they would be worth much more than a mere £1,000,000.

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"SOME SELECTED UFO REPORTS"

by  
D.N.Mansell\*

The following reports, which range from mid-July to late September this year, have been taken from a high number of ufo sightings received by Data Research from all parts of the world during the period in question. Many further reports are in process of investigation and some account of the best or most remarkable of these will be published in a later issue of this journal. At this juncture, I should, on behalf of the Data Research team, like to record my best thanks to all the numerous correspondents who bother to submit sighting reports or newspaper cuttings describing apparent ufo visitations. The regularity with which these are received, and the great volume of them arriving from all quarters is eloquent testimony of (a) the heavy ufo activity currently going on around the world, and (b) the enthusiasm and keen-sightedness of the majority of our members. You are all doing a magnificent job.

The following cases are listed chronologically.

July 15th., 1978: time 9.30 pm.  
Old Bexley, Kent, ENGLAND.

Investigated by MARGARET FRY.

The witness was attending a party, when she decided to go outside to see some horses in a paddock nearby. Whilst "talking" to the horses, she noticed a white light, the size of a golf-ball at arm's length, in the sky. After watching this for a short while, she noticed that the object had changed colour to orange. It then split into two separate objects. At this stage the witness became uneasy and retired indoors. On returning to the paddock area about an hour later, the object had gone.

July 22nd., 1978: time 11.20 pm.  
Heanor, Derbyshire, ENGLAND.

Returning from an evening out with his wife, the witness saw a green light, the size of a pea at arm's length, travelling towards the south across the sky. After a few moments the colour changed to red, as the object performed a right-angled turn to the south-east. The witness's wife, who also saw the object, said its speed was steady. The object seemed to disappear for a few minutes, but then reappeared as two lights, one green the other red. It then suddenly changed to a brilliant green object before disappearing again. It shortly reappeared as a red light which then altered colour to a steely blue before changing back to brilliant green. Silent and round in shape at all times, the object eventually was lost to view behind some houses.

July 24th., 1978: time midnight (approximately).  
Wheatley, Oxfordshire, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Data Research.

The witness, a member of the Data Research team, was lying in bed when, through the bedroom window, she saw an object exactly resembling a helicopter. The percipient could see the rotors, as well as a bright white light at the front end, and several large orange lights at the rear of the object. The object, which was very low, emitted absolutely no sound at all. Subsequent checks with civil and military flight authorities have established that no helicopters are known to have been flying over Wheatley on this night.

\* Data Research, 40 Crown Road, Wheatley, Oxfordshire.



July 25th., 1978: time 11.25 pm.  
Cleethorpes, Humberside, ENGLAND.

Three witnesses were walking along the beach at this resort when they noticed a star-shaped object in the sky dimming and brightening, and moving in jerks. It was first observed as a white object, but it later changed to yellow, then orange, and then a pulsating red colour. The object was below local cloud cover, and was silent.

August 3rd., 1978: time 9.45pm.  
Darley Park, Derbyshire, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Laurence Tomlinson.

Since 1976, the witness has observed a small round red light in the sky five times appearing from out-of-nowhere. It zigzags across the sky, turns yellow, and then disappears upwards (vertical ascent). On every occasion it has been soundless. The most recent sighting of the object occurred on this date.

August 5th., 1978: time 8.00 pm.  
Putney, London, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Roy Fisher.

On glancing out of his kitchen window, a male witness saw in the sky an object resembling a plate with a hole in its centre (like a polo mint or an inner tube for a car tyre). It was grey in hue, but lighter coloured towards the centre. It abruptly vanished.

August 19th., 1978: time 8.20 pm.  
Kimberly, Nottinghamshire, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Laurence Tomlinson.

A male driver near this place noticed a light aircraft in the sky near the road he was travelling along, and paid special attention to it to discover if it was one belonging to a flying club nearby of which he was a member. During his scrutiny of it he noticed, high above the aircraft, an isolated cloud, and in front of the cloud a bright light. The light appeared to be egg-shaped at first, but after a few seconds changed into a double egg-shaped object. This then moved behind the small isolated cloud and did not reappear on the far side of it; it was not seen again. The object's colour was a bright white.

August 20th., 1978: time 9.35 pm.  
Huron, Ohio, USA.

Mrs Vera Perry, an officially appointed investigator in northern Ohio for Contact (UK) reported that, while out exercising her dogs (she breeds dogs) on this evening, she noticed a bright white light, the size of an orange at arm's length, as a conspicuous sky object. After observing it for a while, she noted that part of the object began to revolve or rotate clockwise, as it did so flashing red, green and blue colours. The object appears to be receding from the witness, so estimates of real size and shape, not to mention distance, were exceedingly difficult. The object appeared to be soundless.

September 2nd., 1978: time 8.50 pm.  
Langley Mill, Derbyshire, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Laurence Tomlinson.

The witness was just turning his car into the entrance to the driveway at his house when he noticed a large spherical white object travelling very quickly across the sky. Silent and the size of an egg at arm's length, the object was sharply defined. It left no trail behind it.

September 7th., 1978: time 8.00 to 9.00 pm. Investigated by Laurence Tomlinson.  
Various localities in Derbyshire, ENGLAND.

Numerous reports have been received of a round object sighted in the sky over a large number of Derbyshire localities between the above hours. It has been suggested that the object was a balloon of some type, and although this interpretation cannot be fully ruled out, different reports ascribed different colours to the object such as are not typical of the more usual balloon colours. Observers recorded the colours silver, green, orange, white, and red. One report, which fails to dovetail with the foregoing accounts, but which related to an object sighted contemporaneously, concerned a very bright light --- the size of an old-fashioned sixpence at arm's length --- hovering over Belper. After a short while this object then began moving in an easterly direction. The light started to dim and brighten alternatively, before altering direction towards the north. On looking through a telescope, the witness to this visitation could see a dark area round the light and a small dim red light under the main (and very bright) one. The object eventually disappeared from view in a north-easterly direction.

September 12th., 1978: time 11.00pm (approximately).  
Paignton, Torbay, Devonshire, ENGLAND.

A male witness, who is an amateur astronomer, was watching the stars of the constellation Cassiopeia through his telescope, when he found a diffuse grey object of a precise cubic shape swim into view. Amazed, the witness tried to focus his telescope on the object and resolve its details, but no matter what focal length he tried, the object refused to focus into a sharply defined shape. Without warning the object then split into two separate objects which moved away from one another in opposite directions. The witness was able to keep track of one object (which was still diffuse) until it was lost to view apparently in the depths of space. No sound was detected from the object.

NB: The cubic shape of this diffuse cloudy object is noteworthy, and should be compared to the procession of cube-shaped clouds that moved unnaturally swiftly over Bideford, Devonshire in February 1977 (see "awareness", Autumn, 1977, vol.6, no:3, p.10).

September 13th., 1978: time 10.00 pm. (approximately). Investigated by Data Research.  
Swalecliffe, Oxfordshire, ENGLAND.

A married couple were driving in an area known locally as the "prairie" when suddenly the area turned green as a large object appeared to descend from out of the sky. Round, and the size of a new penny held at arm's length, the object was a brilliant emerald colour, was silent, and left a vapour trail. It moved swiftly, and appeared to be descending. Investigations show this was not a fireball or bolide, although some slight uncertainty remains as to whether it was an exceptionally bright meteor.

September 22nd., 1978: time 8.15 pm.  
Whickham, Tyne & Wear, ENGLAND.

A male witness was waiting for a bus when he saw an intense white light in the sky the size of a very large (bright) star. The light suddenly seemed to "switch off" but then reappeared. It then changed position in the sky, before disappearing again. Shortly afterwards it reappeared in another position, prior to accelerating towards the witness along a slight jagged curve across the sky. As it pas-



sed overhead, the object flashed with exceptional brightness as the witness felt a crackling sensation in his ears. As the object passed away from view, it ceased flashing and remained a steady inextinguishable light.

Report submitted by Terence Cornwell.

September 24th., 1978: time 10.20 pm.  
Wheatlye, Oxfordshire, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Data Research.

On the point of retiring to bed, the witness, D.N.Mansell, looked out of his bedroom window and noticed a smallish greyish-white cloud clearly visible in an otherwise clear sky. Utterly stationary, this cloud excited the witness's attention, and it remained under his scrutiny for 10 minutes. Then, without warning, it abruptly materialized into a transparent object or vanished completely.

This event is recorded here because (a) clouds do not normally dissipate in a virtually instantaneous manner as this one apparently did, and (b) abnormal or strangely behaving "clouds" have often been seen on earlier occasions in association with genuine ufos (see "Awareness", vol.6, no:3 (1977), pp.5-17; and Ibid. vol.6, no:4 (1977), pp.12-15).

Readers will appreciate that the foregoing reports constitute but a random selection of a vast number of reports received at Data Research's headquarters for the period in question. If a report for these months submitted by members has not been included in this selection, such omissions here do not signify that no importance has been attached to the relevant cases. Omissions are based solely upon space limitations.

A further selection of reports will be published in the forthcoming Winter issue of "Awareness".

### "COINCIDENCE? - OR A NEW AVENUE OF APPROACH"

by  
 Jenny Randles\*

Some years ago, the celebrated American ufologist, John Keel, referred to the curious fact that an unexpectedly (one might have said unnaturally) large number of former ufo cases in America had involved people bearing the surname Reeves. This is not by any stretch of the imagination a particularly common name, such as Smith, Jones, Green, or Brown is. Indeed it is not as common as say Robinson, Harris, or Kelly. But in proportion to the known total of ufo cases Reeves seems to crop up as an involved surname with startling frequency. The significance of this fact is not yet known.

Just as remarkable and perhaps forming a parallel example are the following elements that occurred on August 15th., 1955. On that date, several witnesses in the village of Betley, in Cheshire, observed the same kind of ufo as did a lone eyewitness in Shropshire. The surname of the lone witness was also Betley (see Gibbons: "The Coming of the Spaceships", 1956, pp.126-7, and Flying Saucer News, no:10, 1955, p.7).

If such duplications are not coincidences, might they not be hitherto unsuspected new lines of investigation into the social aspects of ufological activity, especially with regard to the "selectivity" factor in ufo behaviour?

\* 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford, Greater Manchester, M30 6NJ.

by  
J.B. Delair.

The British news media gave the minimum of coverage to the following remarkable incident, a treatment in sharp contrast to that accorded the same event in many overseas newspapers and radio broadcasts. Below are two separate accounts published by foreign tabloids.

# Australian Pilot Disappears After Reporting UFO

MELBOURNE, Australia (UPI) — "It isn't an aircraft. It's..."

Moments after pilot Frederick Valentich told an Australian control tower an unidentified flying object with four green lights was chasing him, radio transmission was cut off, and nothing more was heard from the 20-year-old pilot or his single engine Cessna 182.

A full-scale search by the Australian air force resumed today for the plane — and its lone occupant — whose last known position was over the Bass Strait, 130 miles south of Melbourne.

Transport Department spokesman Kenneth Williams said Valentich radioed Melbourne Flight Service Control Saturday at 7:06 p.m. (5:06 a.m. EDT Sunday) and reported a UFO was following him at 4,500 feet.

He described his pursuer as "a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside."

Ground control said there was no air traffic in the area below 5,000 feet.

Valentich disagreed.

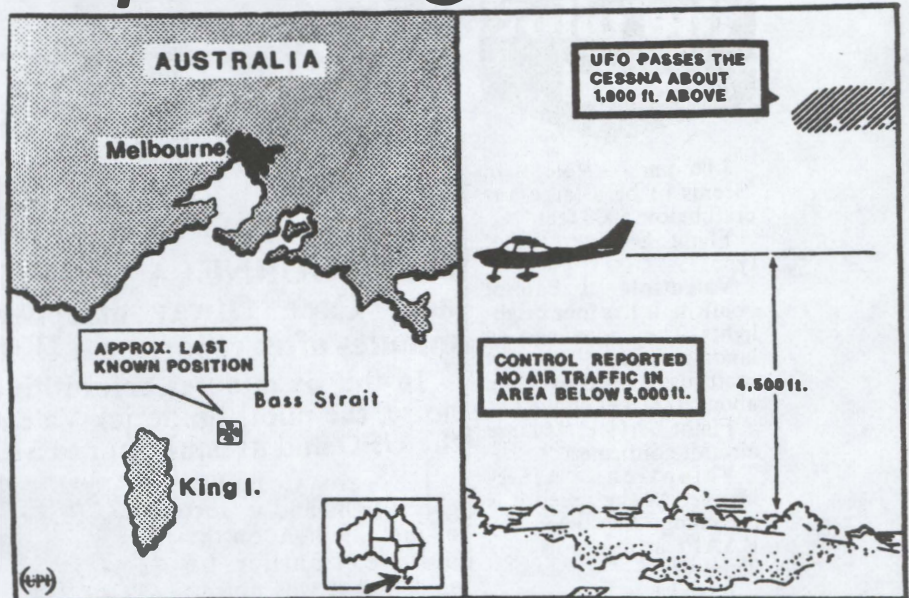
"It has four bright lights — appear to be landing lights. Aircraft has just passed over me about 1,000 feet above."

Can you identify the aircraft, control asked.

"It isn't an aircraft. It's ..." Then silence.

Two minutes later, Valentich's voice rasped over the radio again.

"Melbourne, it's approaching from due east toward me ... It seems to be playing some sort of game ... Flying at a speed I cannot estimate ... It is flying past ... It is a long shape ... Cannot identify more than that ... coming for me right



(United Press International)

## MAPS SHOW MISSING PILOT'S LAST KNOWN LOCATION.

...pilot reported a UFO was following him.

now ... It seems to be stationary ... I'm orbiting (circling) and the thing is orbiting on top of me also ... It has a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside."

Suddenly, Valentich reported his engine was choking.

Metallic scratching replaced the pilot's voice. Then there was no sound at all.

When the aircraft did not arrive at King Island on schedule, investigators began an air search, but found no sign of the aircraft.

Air force planes sighted an oil slick about 18 miles north of King Island, but transport officials said it was not made by a light aircraft.

An Air Transport official said Valentich had been flying for 18 months and was accumulating

hours for a commercial pilot's license.

"It is possible that he could have become disoriented," the official said.

"The aircraft could have inverted and he could have seen the reflections of the Cape Otway and King Island lighthouses on the clouds above him."

He said the Cessna's engine would fail if it was flown upside down.

Valentich's father said his son has been interested in UFO's for many years, and reported sighting one about 10 months ago.

"But whether a UFO has had anything to do with his disappearance in his plane is something I'm not sure about," the father said.



# Airman missing at sea

# PILOT SAW A UFO.

**What  
the pilot  
said**

**7.06 pm** — Valentich: 'Seems to be a large aircraft below 5000 feet.'

Flight Service: 'What type?'

Valentich: 'I cannot confirm. It has four bright lights. They appear to be landing lights. The aircraft just passed over me about 1000 feet above.'

Flight Service: 'Is large aircraft confirmed?'

Valentich: 'Affirmative. At the speed it is travelling. Are there any RAAF aircraft in the vicinity?'

Flight Service: 'Negative.'

**7.08 pm** — Valentich: 'It is approaching from due east towards me ... It seems to be playing some sort of game. It's flying at a speed I cannot estimate.'

**7.09 pm** — Valentich: 'It's not an aircraft ... (break in transmission).'

Flight Service: 'Can you describe aircraft?'

Valentich: 'It is flying past. It is a long shape. I can't identify more than that. Coming for me now.'

Flight Service: 'How large is it?'

Valentich: 'It seems to be stationary. I'm orbiting and the thing is orbiting on top of me also. It has a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside.'

Valentich then reported that the object

**MELBOURNE: A young pilot flying over Bass Strait near Cape Otway disappeared last Saturday night minutes after reporting a UFO.**

In the six minutes before his radio cut out with a metallic noise, the pilot, Frederick Valentich, 20, was able to describe the UFO and its behaviour to Melbourne Flight Service.

He said it had a green light and a 'sort of metallic light on the outside.' Earlier he said that it was not an aircraft.

had vanished.

Flight Service: 'Confirm it has vanished.'

Valentich: 'Affirmative, affirmative. Do you know what kind of aircraft I've got? Is it military?'

Flight Service: 'No. No military traffic in the area.'

**7.12 pm** — Valentich: 'Engine is rough idling and coughing.'

Flight Service: 'What are your intentions?'

Valentich: 'Proceed to King Island. Unknown aircraft hovering on top of me.'

Flight Service acknowledges and reports a sort of metallic noise over the radio before communication lost.



● Frederick Valentich

The Australian newspaper described the sighting as 'one of the best documented and most reputably backed story in the long history of UFO sightings and experiences.'

## Sightings

Following reports of Valentich's disappearance, there were hundreds of reported sightings of UFOs and strange lights in the sky in the Geelong area.

A woman reported having seen what appeared to be a giant ferris wheel in the sky near Queenscliff less than two hours after Valentich disappeared on Saturday.

Other sightings were reported at Geelong, Cape Otway and Brighton.

Some people reported the UFO as being oblong, brilliantly lit and moving very fast.

Also on Saturday night a couple 30 km north of Bateman's Bay, NSW, reported seeing a flying object performing 'impossible aerobatics' for about five minutes.

Meanwhile a widespread air-sea search found a trace of oil in

Bass Strait near where Valentich disappeared. The oil was taken to Melbourne for analysis.

Melbourne Flight Service has released the chilling transcript of Valentich's last conversation.

He radioed asking if there were any planes in the area but Flight Service said there was none.

That was at 7.06 pm. Two minutes later Valentich said: 'It seems to be playing some sort of game. It's flying at a speed I cannot estimate.'

Valentich, an instructor with the Air Training Corps, was on a flight from Moorabbin airport to King Island to collect a load of crayfish when he disappeared.

## No fool

The man who selected him for the job, Squadron Leader Ronald Grandy, said that Valentich was 'no fool'.

He also said Valentich was 'level headed and could hold his tongue.'

The pilot's father, Mr

Guido Valentich, said that his son had believed in UFO's.

'Frederick read about them and I know he believed they existed.

'He'd never seen one before but he became interested in them when he started flying.'

Of these, the first cutting came from the Sandusky (Ohio) Register, for Monday October 23rd., 1978 (p.A-6), courtesy of Miss Vera Perry, and the second came from the Australasian Express for Friday, October 27th., 1978 (front page), via Mrs L.Laskowski.

It is to be hoped that further details of this remarkable case will be released in due course. Meanwhile, the following earlier episodes may be considered in relation to it. It does not automatically follow, however, that the disappearance of Frederick Valentich involved the same agencies as those (whatever they were) causing the disappearance of the undermentioned pilots.

In March 1952, whilst on a meteorological reconnaissance mission over Korea, Wing-commander J.Baldwin, together with the aeroplane he was flying, disappeared into a cloud from which he failed to emerge. Neither Baldwin nor his jet were ever seen again (1).

At approximately 5.50 pm., on March 9th., 1955, a silver bell-shaped object was seen by observers at Paris, Illinois, U.S.A., to "swallow" an aeroplane (2).

Two years previously, on November 23rd to be exact, an F-89 jet from Kinross US Air Force base, Michigan, was dispatched to investigate a ufo. Crewed by Lt.R.R. Wilson and Lt.Felix Moncla Jnr., the jet closed the gap between itself and the ufo at a speed in excess of 500 m.p.h. Ground observers, monitoring the event, watched the jet's blip on the radar screen approach and then suddenly merge with the larger ufo blip — which then moved off at high velocity. Jet and aircrew were never seen again (3).

Late in the afternoon of May 24th., 1971, two MIG jet-fighters were sent up by the Hungarian Air Force to investigate an unknown object also being monitored at the time by radar units at Zagreb, Yugoslavia. The Zagreb radar operators watched all three blips for about ten minutes, after which time all three suddenly merged into a single blip, which then disappeared from the radar scope. Enquiries made by Zagreb of the Hungarian flight controllers elicited a sharp "no comment", and as far as is known neither of the Hungarian jets nor their crews were ever seen again.(4).

One cannot help wondering what becomes of airmen abducted in this fashion. Has Frederick Valentich been added to this disturbing list, and, if so, why?

## References

1. Wilkins, H.T. 1954. "Flying Saucers From the Moon" (London), p.282.
2. Telonic Research Bureau Bulletin, vol.2, no:3, 1956, p.15.
3. Hervey, M. 1976. "UFOs: The American Scene" (London), p.51.
4. The UFO Register (Contact (UK).), vol.3, pt.1, 1972, pp.6-7.



Readers' Letters

As part of a new policy to try and "involve" members and readers more fully in the general running of Contact (UK), and to provide a platform for the voicing of views, recommendations, and objections, the present "Readers' Letters" section has been set-up. If successful, it will form a regular feature of all future issues of this journal. For obvious reasons, however, space limitations will preclude the publication of all letters received, although some may be held over for a future issue, and correspondents are respectfully asked to bear this constraint in mind.

Dear Sirs,

August 10th., 1978.

Once more I must congratulate you on the latest volume of "Awareness", which I always look forward to receiving. It is so full of facts and stimulating articles, and would be worth double the membership subscription. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely, (sic)

Victor L. Harman.

Dear Sir,

September 19th., 1978.

The main object of this letter is to ask you if any one is particularly interested in the "Bermuda Triangle", and if so if they would be interested, as I certainly am, to help plan some sort of expedition in the future to the triangle area, to try and cast some light on the subject.

So far, myself and a few noticeably interested people have been planning the possibility. One point I would like to make is that we are genuinely interested, and each of us so far possesses some form of skill which can be applied to safeguard the ship we plan to use, i.e., electronic engineer, navigator, etc. As you can see, we are still at the planning stage. Ideally we would be most interested in others having particular skills or trade that, as previously stated, can be put to some good use in the functioning of the ship.

You are a big organization, so I should imagine that there must be some people in Contact International U.K., amongst your members, who would be interested and who might help us.

Yours faithfully,

R.O. Ball.

(Editorial note: if any reader wishes to respond to Mr Ball's invitation, please send all communications direct to him at "Ashram", King Street, Combe Martin, Devon. The planned expedition sounds like a great chance to escape mother-in-law, the tax-man, the Mafia, and the world in general; and it could be a permanent arrangement too. Contact (UK) cannot, of course, vouch for the authenticity of all Mr Ball's claims and is not involved in his projected scheme).

Dear Sirs,

September 28th., 1978.

What a dreadful magazine you publish. Can we really believe all the rubbish you fill your pages with? Let us have more scientific facts please.

Yours, Hermoine Scrivenor.

Dear Mr Delair.

September 30th., 1978.

I am contemplating a study of UFO activity in the general Sheffield area, and would like to hear from any member (or anyone) having details of ufo sightings made in say a 15 mile radius from the centre of Sheffield. The reports can be from any years, and should be accompanied by as much detail as possible.

I would be grateful if you could publish this appeal through the pages of your esteemed magazine, which I find very interesting and so full of information.

Yours sincerely,

James P. Frampton.

(Editorial note: Mr Frampton's address is 11 Crofthouse Drive, Stanway, near Sheffield. All correspondence on this matter should be mailed direct to him).

Dear Sirs,

October 3rd., 1978.

May I say how much I appreciate receiving copies of your excellent magazine "Awareness", the Summer issue of which reached me here just last week. It is difficult to keep abreast of ufo literature from Europe out here, so the arrival of "Awareness" through my post box is always a welcome event. Needless to say, your efforts are quite outstanding and leading towards real progress towards a solution to this most fascinating mystery. Perhaps, however, we will all be sorry when everything is understood, for I am sure people everywhere thoroughly enjoy having a mystery to tackle. My best wishes for Contact's future.

Yours faithfully,

Gatan Lothimpran,  
Tan Bukit Road,  
Singapore.

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The foregoing is a selection of typical correspondence received "out-of-the-blue", so to speak, by Data Research at Wheatley. Letters for and against the contents of "Awareness" and the running of Contact (UK) arrive regularly, and afford your committee valuable insights into how you, the membership, feels about Contact (UK) and its publications. If you have views, or wish to make recommendations, etc., do please write (not telephone) to Mr Paul Flatman, our new Public Relations Officer c/o 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, Oxfordshire. He will process all material received in the usual manner.

#### BOOK REVIEWS AND

#### BOOK NEWS

by

J.B. Delair.

Some issues have passed since the last book reviews appeared in this journal. The following hopefully remedy this situation and deal with some of the more significant recent literary efforts. Inevitably, due to limited space, only a selection of recent titles are reviewed here.



"THE CYCLES OF HEAVEN", by Guy Lyon Playfair and Scott Hill.

368 pages, and illustrations.

Souvenir Press: £4.95p.

What at first glance seemed an indifferent tome turned out, on reading, as a major contribution to the growing literature dealing with the lesser-known aspects of Man's environment and behavioural patterns. This is an absorbing book, by two exceedingly diligent and fair-minded authors — a rather rare phenomenon these days. "The Cycles of Heaven" might even be termed monumental, for it contains an extraordinary wealth of factual detail embracing very wide ranging disciplines, each of which nonetheless exerts some kind of influence on mankind's existence, and, in some cases, clearly molds his actions. Such topics as Cosmic Clocks, natural cycles (e.g., Sunspots, planetary alignments, etc.), and other cyclic effects are discussed with insight and clarity, being presented in a manner readily understandable by even the most dim-witted reader.

Did you know that electromagnetic waves can pollute homes and offices, kill plants, make people feel ill and cause men to make questionable decisions; or that electrical and magnetic interference can cause air pilots and car drivers to make fatal errors of judgement; or that the weather can influence blood disorders, the growth rate of children, heart disease, or heighten the tendency among depressed individuals to commit suicide; or that energy transmitted by sunspots can effect the way people vote; or that the positions of planets at certain times can influence the timing and magnitude of earthquakes? If not, then you should read this book very carefully. A vast amount of corroboratory data is offered in support of each of these contentions.

And, of course, there are references to ufos and the Sirius mystery. A copious bibliography and a useful index complete what is surely a very important book.

"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: THE STRANGE TRUTH ABOUT UFOS", by Alan West and David Jefferis.  
96 pages: profusely illustrated.

Arrow Books: £1.75p.

Quite obviously jumping onto the popular "ufo" bandwagon generated by the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (some clips from which also appear in the book), this is a well concocted volume that will serve as a reasonably acceptable introduction to ufology for those confronted with it for the first time. The general layout of the book is excellent, and very much better than those of many much more important ufo books, but its contents leave much to be desired, particularly with regard to factual accuracy, degree of coverage, and up-to-datedness. On these last three counts "Close Encounters" fails rather badly.

As a volume "Close Encounters" is oriented towards the "nuts and bolts" type of approach to the ufo enigma, insofar as it scarcely touches upon any alternative to the extra-terrestrial interpretation of the mystery. It treats it as if it were the only viable explanation possible, thereby giving the impression that an extra-terrestrial origin for ufos is practically a foregone conclusion. Informed readers know that this is very far from the situation now existing.

Replete with a much too short bibliography and an inadequate list of ufo organisations, "Close Encounters" will be excellent for young readers (a nice Christmas gift perhaps), and those just starting out on the ufological road. As for revealing the "strange truth" about ufos it is simply a non-starter. The overall verdict is that "Close Encounters" looks nice but is not important.

"OVNIS: EL FENOMENO ATERRIZAJE, by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos.

382 pages, photographs, and numerous line illustrations.

Plaza & Janes (Barcelona): \$9.00 (or Sterling equivalent).

Every once in a while something really important happens in the ufo publishing world. The publication of the above book, "UFOs: The Landing Phenomenon", is such an event.

Informed readers will already be familiar with this celebrated Spanish ufologist's researches, and so will automatically expect this volume to be to his usual exceptional standards. They will not be disappointed. Spanish-reading ufologists will find in it a mine of important case detail, as the author leads one through event after event in impressive style.

Essentially, the book consists of three chapters describing selected ufo landing cases investigated by the author. A chapter on investigative methodology then follows, which is in turn succeeded by three more chapters analysing the spatio-temporal structure of the phenomenon. These latter reveal the patterns and features inherent in ufo landings in Spain, and will for long serve as models with which comparisons can be made with similar studies (yet to be carried out) of landings in other countries. The book closes with three appendices, of which the second in particular will remain of first-rate importance for many years to come. It is quite easily the best single statement in print concerning the number and characters of Spanish ufo landing cases.

There are fourteen photographs, some of them new, and numerous excellent diagrams and line drawings. Some of the latter, so essential to a proper understanding of some of the relevant cases, possess unusual clarity. Finally, a truly enormous bibliography completes the book --- a kind of ufo literature catalogue all on its own. It comprises no less than 550 different references, the compilation of which must have been no mean task in itself.

If any complaint can be levelled at this book, it is that there is no index. I suppose one cannot have everything between two covers, but a book such as this (already a major contribution) really should be provided with an index. Hopefully the much-needed English language edition of "Ovnis: El Fenomeno Aterrizaje" will have one. If you comprehend Spanish, then acquire this book.

"THE JULES VERNE COMPANION", by Peter Haining.

128 pages: profusely illustrated.

Souvenir Press: £6.50p.

Jules Verne is globally remembered as one of the greatest story tellers of all time. Many of his stories involved flying machines, underwater ships, and self-propelled islands. Many more of his ideas were prophetic. As this splendid title clearly shows, Verne's books were the result as much of genuine factual research as of a remarkable imagination. Thus he was apparently able to extend known facts into plausible possibilities (and as history has shown, into workable developments). Verne's yarns about rockets to the Moon and various types of aircraft were thus rooted in fact, which presumably made his tales so acceptable to his millions of readers. His influence on rocketry and interplanetary travel has yet to be correctly assessed perhaps, but he undoubtedly exerted more than passing influence as this book shows.

Illustrated with scores of contemporary illustrations and photographs, some in



colour, Mr Haining's book traces various aspects of Verne's career, interests, and achievements in absorbing fashion. Indeed, it is difficult to put down once a start has been made on its contents. The illustrations include many stills from the score or more of films made of Verne's stories down the years, and numerous reproductions of woodcuts and other illustrations made at the time when the stories first appeared. Many of these drawings are real works of art and are quite startling in their originality — thereby reflecting the extraordinary impact Verne's tales made on even the author's illustrators.

Students of ufology will find much to interest them in this fascinating tome, especially the sections devoted to aerial devices; but then ufologists seem to be interested in many things other than ufos, and will find great interest in the remainder of the contents of this literary companion.

Once again I should like to voice a complaint that the omission of an index is a notable detraction from an otherwise gripping and pictorially beautiful book. Perhaps the publishers will add one to any second edition. Certainly Mr Haining's book deserves an index, especially at the price asked for it. Nonetheless it is a first-rate contribution and would, among other things, make a wonderful birthday or Christmas gift to anyone of either sex or any age.

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#### 1978-1979 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — ADVANCE NOTICE.

The Annual General Meeting for the 1978-1979 season will be held on January 20th., 1979, at the Town Hall, Oxford, and will commence at 2.30 pm sharp. All members wishing to attend this meeting are reminded that they must produce a valid membership card on arrival to qualify for the 50p admission charge to be granted only to fully paid-up members. If you have lost or mislaid your membership card please communicate direct to Mrs Sandy Robb (see page 1) in order that a replacement card can be issued to you without delay.

Members of the public, and friends of Contact (UK) members who also attend this meeting will be admitted on receipt of the sum of 75p.

There will be a new ufo exhibition, a selection of recent ufo books and various Contact (UK) publications for sale, and two lectures by leading British ufologists. Of these, the first will be Norman Oliver (of BUFORA), whose talk, on CEIII cases and their aspects, will commence at 4.0 pm. and finish approximately at 5.30 pm. There will then be an hour's break for refreshments, after which (at 6.30 pm.) a second lecture will be given until approximately 7.45 pm. It is hoped that there will be an any questions session when a panel of acknowledged authorities on ufological matters will attempt to deal with questions put by the audience. This is expected to "sit" at 7.50 pm. and to last until about 8.40 pm.

Members will have noticed that this year Contact (UK)'s committee have deviated from their usual practice of staging the AGM in London. Until this year the AGM has almost always been held at the Caxton Hall, near Victoria, London. While these have usually proved successful, your committee nevertheless felt that in fairness to members living too far away from London to allow them to reach the Caxton Hall, future AGMs should be held in London only every third year, venues being at different British cities in the intervening two years. This first one is therefore being held at Oxford. We hope to see you there and make your personal acquaintance.

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RECOMMENDED UFO BOOKS.

Data Research regularly receives enquiries from individuals (presumably newcomers to the topic of ufos) who want to know what to read. While every effort is made to answer each query individually, it has occurred to your committee that a printed list of books about ufos may be of more permanent use to those seeking this type of information. Accordingly a list of the books regarded as among the most reliable or significant is given below. The list does not pretend to be complete, but does indicate publications that should be read by every ufologist worthy of the title. Indeed, all these books should be mandatory reading for every serious ufologist.

The titles are not given in any special order, since it is not Contact (UK)'s policy to grade other writer's books for intrinsic importance. Nevertheless, the list can be taken as including all the titles regarded by Contact (UK) as being important.

- ✓ J. McCambell, "Ufology".
- ✓ E.F. Fowler, "UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors".
- ✓ J. Magor, "Our UFO Visitors".
- ✓ J.A. Hynek, "The UFO Experience".
- ✓ I. Hobana and J. Weverbergh, "UFOs from behind the Iron Curtain".
- ✓ J. Lorenzen & C. Lorenzen, "UFOs: The Whole Story".
- ✓ C. Sagan & T. Page, "UFOs: A Scientific Debate".
- ✓ E. Ruppelt, "Report on Unidentified Flying Objects".
- ✓ A. Michel, "The Truth About Flying Saucers".
- ✓ J.G. Fuller, "Incident at Exeter".
- ✓ A. Michel, "Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery".
- ✓ J. Keel, "Operation Trojan Horse".
- ✓ H.T. Wilkins, "Flying Saucers From the Moon" (also issued as "Flying Saucers on the Attack").
- ✓ D.E. Keyhoe, "Aliens from Space".
- ✓ J. Vallee and J. Vallee, "Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma".
- ✓ J. Vallee, "Anatomy of a Phenomenon".
- ✓ J. Keel, "The Mothman Prophecies".
- ✓ D.E. Keyhoe, "Flying Saucers From Outer Space".
- ✓ F. Salisbury, "The Utah UFO Display".
- ✓ D. Saunders and R.R. Harkins, "UFOs? - Yes".
- ✓ J. Lorenzen and C. Lorenzen, "Encounters with UFO Occupants" (updated and enlarged version of "Flying Saucer Occupants").
- ✓ E.U. Condon (editor), "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects".
- ✓ B. Le Poer Trench, "The Flying Saucer Story".
- ✓ C. Lorenzen and J. Lorenzen, "The Abducted".
- ✓ C. Bowen (editor), "The Humanoids".
- ✓ M. Hervey, "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere".
- ✓ K. Arnold and R. Palmer, "The Coming of the Saucers".
- ✓ M.K. Jessup, "The Case for the UFO".
- ✓ M.K. Jessup, "The Expanding Case for the UFO".
- ✓ C. Jung, "Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky".
- ✓ M. Hervey, "UFOs: The American Scene".
- ✓ A. Constance, "The Inexplicable Sky".

It should be noted that not all these titles are currently in print, and that only books printed in the English language have been included. Some excellent ufo books printed in Italian, French, and Spanish also exist, although so far



none of these have yet appeared in an English edition.

A large number of other books, such as "Uninvited Visitors", by I. Sanderson, "Flying Saucers Have Landed" by D. Leslie and G. Adamski, and "Flying Saucers Come From Another World" by J. Gieu, to name but three, have also exerted some influence upon subsequent ufological thought, while in the same category might be mentioned Gray Barker's "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers" and A. Bender's "Flying Saucers and the Three Men". These latter two tomes were instrumental in getting the concept of Men-in-Black firmly embedded into the overall ufo saga, while the Leslie-Adamski tome established the connection (real or imaginary, but nonetheless heavily worked by later writers) of antediluvian and god-like affinities for ufos. Sanderson's book, like his "Invisible Residents", was rather speculative, but introduced the ultradimensional possibilities of the ufo phenomenon into the literature more forcefully than perhaps did other books on the same general topic. R. L. Dione's interesting "God Drives a Flying Saucer" discussed aspects not previously raised in the literature and reduced the supreme deity to the status of a technological genius.

All the above tomes exercised influence of a kind on subsequent ufological writings, or introduced new concepts or possibilities into the ufological arena. But interesting though each undeniably is, it is not truly possible to regard them as of paramount or lasting importance to ufo research. It might indeed be argued that perhaps several of the listed volumes on p.23 are hardly more important, but it should be explained that they have been included because they actually are importance (e.g., Hynek's "The UFO Experience", Bowen's "The Humanoids", and Keel's "Operation Trojan Horse"), had a particular historical significance (e.g., Arnold and Palmer's "The Coming of the Saucers"), or constitute particularly good records of national or continental ufo activity (e.g., Hervey's "UFOs Over The Southern Hemisphere", Magor's "Our UFO Visitors", or Hobana and Weverbergh's "UFOs From the Iron Curtain"). The remaining volumes were mostly selected for their excellent overview of the ufo phenomena or for their introduction of new ideas supported by documented evidence (e.g., Jessups's "The Expanding Case for the UFO" and Constance's "The Inexplicable Sky").

In addition to all the foregoing publications there have also appeared at sporadic intervals a number of important documents that are essentially specialist reports. Bloecher's "Report on the UFO Wave of 1947" is an excellent example of this category of ufo literature. These documents are without exception of great importance to a proper study of the ufo phenomenon and should be familiar to all serious researchers.

It is to be hoped that the preceding selection of titles and general resume of a small segment of the now vast ufo literature will prove useful to those readers just entering the field, so to speak, and desirous of familiarising themselves with what has been published of importance.

Editor.

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